

fore my mind there float visions of Winona, with its cottages, its tabernacles, its flowers, its sparkling waters. I hear the sounds of sweet music as devout hearts sing praise to Him from whom all blessings flow, and I seem to catch an inspiration until my own soul is attuned to heaven's harmony. I see the dear brethren and sisters already assembled there, waiting anxious each train that they may meet and greet the loved ones coming. I look into the dear familiar faces, and hear the clear voices that oftentimes were an inspiration to me in the past. I hear the happy greetings and my thoughts go back to the many times I have been among the number, and what a foretaste of heaven seemed the glad hand clasps, the happy greetings, the sweet songs and all the joys of Conference week. And as I think of it all, how I long to be with you, but tho hundreds of miles away, busy with household duties, church duties, and not least, the care of my little baby girl, Arda Leam, yet I am with you in spirit uniting my prayers with yours.

I rejoice exceedingly in the good that has been accomplished by the S. S. C. E. during the conference year just closed. I am exceedingly glad of the success that has crowned the earnest, self-denying efforts of our dear president. Tho my pen has been silent thru press of other duties, yet I have not lost interest and today I earnestly pray that the Spirit of the Master may guide you in the work done in conference assembled. May the enthusiasm be so great that great waves of it may pass thru the brotherhood, that even in far off Virginia we may feel its pulsations.

But I am asked to write upon "The Real Mission of the S. S. C. E.," and I do it all the more earnestly and heartily because I am sometimes afraid we lose sight of its highest, supremest purpose, and give the precedence to that which ought to have only a secondary consideration.

The S. S. C. E. has a financial aim, a financial purpose. One of its objects as expressed in the constitution is to raise money, to raise funds for church purposes. Worthy enterprises of the church must have the financial support of the church. No institution, no auxiliary of the church can be successfully conducted without financial aid. The religion of Jesus Christ is free, 'tis true; the living water is without money and without price, so free that *whosoever will* may enjoy it, and yet the gospel cannot be preached to all creatures and the world evangelized without money. But the financial purpose of the S. S. C. E. is only a means to an end, and not that end itself. Very diligent and very earnest effort may be put forth for the raising of funds for church purposes, for the spread of the gospel, and the salvation of the world, and this effort be crowned with abundant success, so that we shall be able to tell of hungry ones fed, of naked ones clothed, of churches built, with spires towering toward heaven, of missionaries abroad telling the beautiful story of the cross, and at the same time be a failure, so

far as the real mission of the S. S. C. E. is concerned.

Then, too, the S. S. C. E. has a spiritual aim, a spiritual purpose. The name is very significant, very suggestive,—Christian endeavor, Christian effort, effort to be better, effort to do better, a union of hearts and hands in Christian work, an effort to be more like Christ—more like him in sweet unselfishness, more like him in sweet humility, more like him in loving kindness, more like him in tender, loving compassion, more like him in persevering, untiring effort for the salvation of this poor, darkened, sin-cursed, weary world. The S. S. C. E. is something real, and not something ideal. It is not a conception in the mind, but it is an experience. It is not a theory, but it is practice. It is not theoretical Christianity, but it is practical Christianity, true, vital piety,—Christ in the soul and Christ in the everyday life,—not simply Christ professed, but Christ possessed.

"True worth is in *being*, not *seeming*,
In *doing* each day that goes by,
Some little good, not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by."

The Christian life—the Christ life relived in the world consists of two vital principles, being good and doing good. Christ is our model. Look at him. See that lamb without blemish and without spot. See that life so true, so pure, so clean, so exalted, that men of his own day could find no fault in him, so faultless that Pilate washes his hands to be clean of the blood of the innocent One, and unbelievers of today pay tribute to the spotless purity and goodness of him, than whom, among the sons of men, none was born greater. O the beauty of such a life! O the nobility of true goodness!

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me,
'Tis only noble, to be good;
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

How beautiful is that life that is crowned with true goodness, with loving kindness, with simple, child-like faith, faith, beautiful as the light, sublime as heaven and true as God. Such a life alone reflects the light and life of Christ, and such lives, we rejoice to know, are lived in this world by some of God's dear children,—not only by those whose noble deeds and self-sacrifice, and untiring labors before the public and in the higher walks of life have made their names familiar and dear to us all, but by many down in the common walks of life, unknown to fame, in homes of poverty and obscurity, but living lives so pure, so sweet, so unselfish and so faithful that angels smile to look upon them.

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear,
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Such a beautiful life, it is the purpose of the S. S. C. E. to help us to live—a life beautiful not only in being good, but in doing good,—beautiful not only in passive goodness, but in active goodness. To be

good is the mother of to do good. The highest tribute to be paid to the life of God's dear Son and our dear Savior is to tell that he went about doing good. Again, I say, Look at him, O beloved fellow workers! Look at his life. Look at him lovingly. Look at him believably. See that life so abundant in good works, so rich in usefulness, so noble in purpose, and let that life be your inspiration. Look at him and may your hearts be stirred to earnest effort and exalted endeavor to live a life that shall be a bright reflection of the only true and perfect life ever lived in the world. Look at him—keep your minds and your hearts stayed upon him, and then will your life show Christ within you, the hope of glory, transforming you, beautifying your soul, ennobling and moulding your character, until from strength to strength, and glory to glory, you have grown into his own image.

But let us not forget that very earnest efforts may be put forth in the name of the S. S. C. E. spiritually as well as financially, and yet its real mission, its supremest purpose be lost sight of. We may plan and devise methods of raising funds for church purposes, and when these methods have been executed, we may point proudly to the monuments of our success, and yet our success be, at least in part, but failure. We may seek earnestly to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God, we may fervently pray to shine as lights in the world, we may faithfully strive to perform our Christian duties, we may labor self-sacrificingly for the good of others, we may even point to the souls that have been added to the church thru our efforts, and yet failure be written upon our life work.

Beloved, the true end sought for, the supreme purpose aimed at, the real mission of the S. S. C. E. is and *must be* the glory of God. All our efforts, all our labors, our desires must be directed to that end. Self must be lost in Christ, the creature and its gratifications must be sunk out of sight in the Creator.

"O to be nothing, nothing,
Only to lie at His feet,
A broken and emptied vessel,
For the Master's use made meet."

Nothing in ourselves, but all things for God, asking not what will give me most pleasure, but what will tend to God's honor and glory. Souls must be saved, not alone because of their own intrinsic worth and value but for the glory of God; lives must be strengthened, ennobled and beautified, not alone because "'Tis only noble to be good," but that God's name be glorified thru-out the earth; lamps must be trimmed to shine brightly before men that they may glorify your Father in heaven. This was Christ's own purpose, his own aim, his own prayer. "Father, glorify thy name." It was *Christ's purpose* concerning us. "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit." It was the mission *accomplished* by Christ. "I have glorified thee on the earth." It is God's own pleasure and will concerning him-